

§ 3402.14 Faculty vitae.

This section should include a Summary Vita, Form CSRS-708, for each faculty member contributing significantly to institutional competence at the level of graduate study for the national area addressed in the proposal. Applicants should arrange the faculty vitae with the project director(s) first, followed by the remaining faculty, in alphabetical order. Pagination for the faculty vitae should be continuous following the budget page and so indicated in the table of contents.

§ 3402.15 Appendix.

Any additional supporting information deemed essential for clarifying and/or strengthening the proposal should be included in an Appendix and referenced in the national need narrative. To the extent possible, applicants should present supporting information included in the Appendix in tabular form. Pagination for the Appendix should be continuous following the faculty vitae and so indicated in the table of contents.

Subpart D—Submission of a Proposal

§ 3402.16 Intent to submit a proposal.

To assist HEP in preparing for review of fellowship proposals, institutions planning to submit proposals for fellowships may be requested to complete and return an Intent to Submit a Proposal form (Form CSRS-706). When required, applicants should complete and return one form for each proposal they anticipate submitting. Sending this form does not commit an institution to any course of action. The program announcement published in the FEDERAL REGISTER will delineate if, when, and where the Intent to Submit a Proposal Forms should be sent.

§ 3402.17 Where to submit a proposal.

The program announcement published in the FEDERAL REGISTER will delineate the date for submission of proposals and the number of proposal copies required to apply for a grant. In addition, the program announcement will provide the address to which the proposal, its accompanying duplicate

copies, and the institution's latest graduate catalog should be mailed.

Subpart E—Proposal Review and Evaluation

§ 3402.18 Proposal review.

The proposal evaluation process includes both USDA internal staff review and merit evaluation by panels of scientists, educators, industrialists, and Government officials who are highly qualified to render expert advice in the targeted areas. The goal of the process of selection and structuring of evaluation panels is to provide optimum expertise and objective judgment in the evaluation of proposals specific to a particular area of national need.

§ 3402.19 Evaluation criteria.

Proposals addressing a particular national need area at a particular degree level will be evaluated in competition with other proposals addressing the same national need area at the same degree level. Both USDA internal staff and the panelists will evaluate proposals primarily on the basis of the following criteria:

Evaluation criterion	Weight
a. The degree to which the proposal establishes clearly that the proposed program of graduate study will result in the development of outstanding scientific/professional expertise related to the national need area and will do so in a reasonable period of time.	30 points.
b. The degree to which the proposal highlights thoroughly any special features such as an inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, or cross-disciplinary approach, an unusual collateral specialization in a related discipline, experiential learning opportunities, unique mentoring programs, seminars, or a multi-university collaborative approach.	10 points.
c. The degree to which the proposal substantiates clearly that the institution's faculty, facilities and equipment, instructional support resources, and other academic attributes are excellent for providing outstanding graduate study and research at the forefront of science and technology related to the chosen area of national need.	20 points.
d. The degree to which the institution's plans and procedures for recruiting and selecting academically outstanding Fellows and for advising and guiding Fellows through a program of study reflect excellence as documented in the proposal.	20 points.
e. The degree to which supplementary summary data substantiate program quality in the targeted national need area.	10 points.

Evaluation criterion	Weight
f. The quality of the proposal as reflected by its substantive content, organization, clarity, and accuracy.	10 points.

Additional or amended evaluation criteria and new point weightings may be cited in the program announcement published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

Subpart F—Supplementary Information

§ 3402.20 Terms and conditions of grant awards.

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official shall make project grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose proposals are judged most meritorious in the announced program areas under the evaluation criteria and procedures set forth in this part. The beginning of the project period shall be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support. All funds granted under this part shall be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations of this part, the terms and conditions of the award, the applicable Federal cost principles, and the Department's Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations (7 CFR Part 3015).

§ 3402.21 Grant awards.

(a) The grant award document shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization.
- (2) Title of project.
- (3) Name(s) and address(es) of Project Director(s).
- (4) Identifying grant number assigned by the Department.
- (5) Project period, which specifies how long the Department intends to support the effort without requiring re-application for funds.
- (6) Total amount of Federal financial assistance approved during the project period.
- (7) Legal authority under which the grant is awarded.
- (8) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accom-

plish the stated purpose of the grant award.

(9) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by the Department to carry out its granting activities or to accomplish the purpose of this particular project grant.

(b) The notice of grant award, in the form of a letter, will provide pertinent instructions and information to the grantee that are not included in the grant award document described above.

(c) The major types of grant instruments shall be as follows:

(1) New grant. This is a grant instrument by which HEP agrees to support a specified number of graduate Fellows at a specific institution via funds for fixed graduate student stipends and fixed cost-of-education institutional allowances. This type of grant is approved on the basis of peer review recommendation.

(2) Supplemental grant. This is an instrument by which HEP agrees to provide additional funding under a new grant as specified in paragraph (c)(1) of this section to provide special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowances for graduate Fellows. This type of grant will not require additional peer review.

§ 3402.22 Other Federal statutes and regulations that apply.

Several other Federal regulations or statutes apply to project grants awarded under this part. These include but are not limited to:

- 7 CFR Part 1.1—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.
- 7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-129 regarding debt collection.
- 7 CFR Part 15, Subpart A—USDA implementation of Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- 7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, as amended, implementing OMB directives (i.e., Circular Nos. A-110 and A-21), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of Departmental financial assistance.
- 7 CFR Part 3017, as amended—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants), as amended.
- 7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of New Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes